

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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SS-15 HA-05 /084 W
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O R 121110Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8002
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 1234/1

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA ONE)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, VM, TH, CB
SUBJ: SRV DEPUTY FONMIN GIANG PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 12

FULL TRANSLATION OF PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN JAN 12 BY SRV DEPUTY
FONMIN VO DONG GIANG, AS SRV DELEGATION SPOKESMAN, FOLLOWS:
(CONFERENCE WAS IN VIETNAMESE WITH THAI TRANSLATION, EXCEPT AS
INDICATED IN ENGLISH, TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY USIS).

QUOTE:
GIANG: A JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN ISSUED ALREADY ON THE OCCA-
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SION OF THIS VISIT. I THEREFORE ONLY WISH TO POINT OUT AND EMPHA-
SIZE THAT THE TWO SIDES HAVE ASSESSED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE
THE GREAT BENEFICIAL RESULTS FROM THIS OFFICIAL VISIT OF OUR VICE
PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. THE PROMOTION OF GOOD
FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS ALSO FAVORABLE
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS AMONG COUN-
TRIES OF THIS REGION, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO THE CAUSE OF INDE-

PENDENCE, PEACE AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. I WISH TO ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZE THAT DIFFERENCES IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF VIETNAM AND THAILAND WILL NOT BE ANY OBSTACLE WHATSOEVER OBSTRUCTING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ON THE CONTRARY, THIS CHANGE IN THE SITUATION WILL HELP PROVIDE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION TO MEET ONE ANOTHER AND TO HAVE MUTUAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND WITHOUT FEAR OF INTERFERENCE OR AGGRESSION.

THIS GREAT SUCCESS ACHIEVED IS BENEFICIAL TO THE PEOPLE OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. IT IS A RESPONSE TO THE GENUINE DESIRE AND ASPIRATION OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND THE THAI PEOPLE TO MAKE A NEW START BY REESTABLISHING GOOD FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THAILAND. THIS IS ALSO ACCLAIMED BY ALL PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO POSSESS SINCERITY.

I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE EXPRESSION USED BY THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WONG PHONNIKON, IN WHICH HE COMPARED THE NEWLY REESTABLISHED RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THAILAND AS A FLOWER THAT IS IN FULL BLOOM, BECAUSE BOTH SIDES ARE WATERING AND FERTILIZING THE FLOWER PLANT. THE THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WENT ON TO WARN ME THAT BOTH SIDES MUST CONTINUE TAKING GREAT CARE OF THIS FLOWER PLANT, BECAUSE, ITS BEAUTY MIGHT BE DESTROYED BY INSECTS THAT FLY ABOUT AT NIGHT.

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I FEEL VERY CERTAIN THAT GOOD FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THAILAND ARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES, THAT ALL PERSONS WHO ARE SINCERE AND HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS WILL REALIZE THE TRUTH OF THIS STATEMENT.

THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IN A SPEECH AT THE DINNER HE HOSTED YESTERDAY THAT HE FEELS DEEP APPRECIATION AND JOY AT THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I, TOO, RESPECT AND ADHERE FIRMLY TO THE GOOD FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN REESTABLISHED. THOUGH VIETNAM AND THAILAND ARE NOT BIG WORLD POWERS, NEITHER ARE THEY SMALL AND INSIGNIFICANT COUNTRIES.

I NOW INVITE YOU TO PUT QUESTIONS TO ME DURING THE NEXT 30 MINUTES, BUT I WISH TO REQUEST YOU TO BASE YOUR QUESTIONS MAINLY ON THE OFFICIAL VISIT PAID TO THAILAND BY OUR VICE PRIME MINISTER.

QUESTION: I AM PRIDA AKRAWIBUN, REPORTER OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT. IN WHAT WAYS AND TO WHAT EXTENT WILL THE AGREEMENT ON AIR SERVICES AND THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, WHICH HAVE BEEN SIGNED, BE USEFUL TO

VIETNAM IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THAT COUNTRY?

ANSWER: I FEEL CERTAIN THAT BOTH THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED WILL BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH VIETNAM AND THAILAND. SINCE OUR COUNTRIES ARE IN THE TROPICAL ZONE, THEY HAVE MANY NATURAL SIMILARITIES, BUT IN SPITE OF THAT, THE MUTUAL AID AND COOPERATION THEY CAN GIVE EACH OTHER WILL BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL IN VARIOUS WAYS. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE SIGNING OF THESE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AT A TIME WHEN BOTH OF THEM ARE CONCENTRATING ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS WILL HELP PRESERVE PEACE AND ENABLE THEM TO COEXIST IN PEACE AND QUIET, BASED ON GOOD UNDERSTANDING. IMPERIALISTS AND REACTIONARIES WILL MOST PROBABLY FEEL DISPLEASED, BUT THERE IS A VIETNAMESE PROVERB WHICH SAYS/ "THERE IS NO NEED TO FEAR AN ENEMY WHO CRITICIZES US, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT SHOULD AN ENEMY PRAISE US, THEN WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD. I THEREFORE SAY THAT VIETNAM AND THAILAND WILL MAKE GOOD PROGRESS ALONG THE ROAD WHICH IS BASED ON COOPERATION AND GOOD FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER.

Q: I AM TERMSAK OF THE NATION. IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE JIST ISSUED, IS STATED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU WHAT THOSE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS ARE, AND TO WHAT EXTENT HANOI PLACES IMPORTANCE ON THEM.

A: I CAN SPEAK OF THOSE PROBLEMS, BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING THAT IS SECRET. ONE PROBLEM CONCERNS VIETNAMESE NATIONALS IN THAILAND. ANOTHER PROBLEM CONCERNS PLANES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND ARMAMENTS WHICH FORMER INHABITANTS OF FORMER SAIGON BROUGHT TO THAILAND WHEN THEY FLED THE COUNTRY. ANOTHER PROBLEM CONCERNS THAI ASSETS IN THE FORMER THAI EMBASSY IN HO CHI MINH CITY. THE PROBLEM ON WHICH VIETNAM IS CONCENTRATING ESPECIALLY IS HOW OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THAILAND CAN BE SOLVED IN A FRIENDLY MANNER WITHOUT HURTING EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS. BUT NOW THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE BASED ON GENUINE FRIENDSHIP, ALL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WILL BE DEFINITELY SOLVED.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH ME, THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THAILAND IS SELECTING AN AMBASSADOR TO SEND TO HANOI WHO POSSESSES ALL, OR AS MANY QUALIFICATIONS AS DESIRED. I, TOO, ON MY PART, AM SELECTING AN AMBASSADOR TO SEND TO BANGKOK FROM AMONGST THE BEST DIPLOMATS WE HAVE. THIS SHOWS THAT BOTH SIDES RESPECT EACH OTHER AND FEEL MUTUAL RESPECT FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE ALSO REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RELATIONS TOWARDS ALL COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION. THESE ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS THAT I HAVE TIME TO MENTION.

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 HA-05 /084 W

-----128201 121322Z /53

O R 121110Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8003

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

Q: (ASKED IN ENGLISH

MR. VO DONG GIANG, I'M PETER COLLINS OF CBS NEWS. I WONDER IF YOU CAN TAKE THIS OCCASION TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR THE OUT-BREAK OF FIGHTING BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND DEMOCRATIC KAMPOCHEA AND ALSO TO RESPOND TO CAMBODIA'S CHARGE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WANTS TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT IN PHNOM PENH AND TO ABSORB IT INTO A FEDERATION OF STATES-INDOCHINA STATES-DOMINATED BY HANOI.

A: (IN VIETNAMESE) THE INCIDENTS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA ARE A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM AT PRESENT. BUT IT IS NOT A MAIN SUBJECT AT THE MEETING TODAY. I WILL ONLY GIVE ONE ANSWER NOW ON THIS SUBJECT. FIRST OF ALL, I WISH TO STATE THAT I FIRMLY UPHOLD

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AND RESPECT RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA, BECAUSE THOSE RELATIONS ARE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE EXISTED SINCE ANCIENT TIMES. AND NOTHING CAN CAHNGE THE TIES OF BLOOD BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES. I AM DOING MY UTMOST TO PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH KAMPUCHEA. I AND ALL MEMBERS OF OUR GOVERNMENT ARE CONCENTRATING ON COOPERATING WITH KAMPUCHEA AND ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. WE DEEPLY DEPLORE THE FACT THAT DURING RECENT TIMES, KAMPUCHEA HAS BEEN LAUNCHING VIOLENT AND FIERCE ATTACKS ON THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE LIVING ALONG OUR BORDER WITH KAMPUCHEA, RESULTING IN LOSS OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR BORDER AREA AS WELL AS THE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND ASSETS. THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE LEARNED WHAT WAGING WAR IS LIKE DURING MANY DECADES--WAR WHICH ENDED IN THE TOTAL DEFEAT OF IMPERIALIST AMERICA ON VIETNAMESE SOIL. BUT VIETNAM IS NOT SO STUPID AS TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF COLONALISTS AND IMPERIALISTS AND LET ITSELF BECOME INVOLVED IN FIGHTING IN ANY WAY. WE CONSIDER THERE IS NOTHING OF GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM. AND THAT MEANS THAT WE ARE FIRMLY DETERMINED TO SAFEGUARD OUR INDEPENDENCE AND OUR FREEDOM. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE WILL NEVER INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY, BUT WE WILL NEVER BROOK INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS FROM ANY OUTSIDE COUNTRY. KAMPUCHEA'S ACTIONS NOW CONFLICT TOTALLY WITH STATEMENTS IT MADE IN THE PAST. OUR GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS AND MEETINGS TO THE LEADERS OF KAMPUCHEA TIME AND AGAIN IN ORDER TO FIND A WAY TO SOLVE BORDER PROBLEMS PEACEFULLY. BUT NO SINCERE RESPONSE HAS EVER BEEN MADE TO ANY PROPOSAL WE HAVE MADE. WE ARE READY TO MEET THEM ANYTIME, ANYWHERE AND AT ANY LEVEL THEY PLEASE IN ORDER TO SOLVE THESE BORDER PROBLEMS PEACEFULLY AS BROTHERS SHOULD. BUT KAMPUCHEA HAS GIVEN EXCUSE AFTER EXCUSE TO POSTPONE MEETINGS. THEREFORE, THE FACT THAT INCIDENTS ARE STILL OCCURING IS ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITY. MY PERSONAL VIEW, HOWEVER, IS THAT VIETNAMESE-KAMPUCHEA BORDER PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY IN THE NOT DISTANT

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FUTURE, AND BROTHERLY RELATIONS WILL BE REESTABLISHED BETWEEN OUR TO COUNTRIES, BECAUSE THAT IS THE DESIRE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, OF THE KAMPUCHEA PEOPLE AND OF THE PEOPLE OF ALL COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION. I WILL NOW ANSWER QUESTIONS ON OTHER SUBJECTS.

Q: WHAT IS THE POLICY OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT REGARDING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND, INCLUDING REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MANY YEARS AND THOSE WHO HAVE COME HERE RECENTLY?

A: THIS HAS TO BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEPARATE PROBLEMS. THERE ARE VIETNAMESE WHO FLED TO AND TOOK ASYLUM IN THAILAND MANY YEARS AGO, AND THEY HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN HONEST, LAW-ABIDING MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD AND OCCUPATIONS AND THEY ARE TRUE AND SINCERE FRIENDS OF THAILAND, ALWAYS CONFORMING TO AND UPHOLDING THE LAW OF THE LAND. MY VIEW IS THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE MENTIONED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WILL SOLVE THIS PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE IN THAILAND.

BUT VIETNAMESE WHO FLED THEIR OWN COUNTRY AFTER IT WAS LIBERATED FROM THE IMPERIALISTS ARE VIETNAMESE WHO ARE TOOLS OF THE IMPERIALISTS, WHO OPPOSE US. I HOPE THAT ALL SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WILL NOT LET THE IMPERIALISTS USE SUCH PERSONS AS THEIR TOOLS TO CREATE EVIL INCIDENTS IN MY COUNTRY OR ANY INCIDENT WHICH MIGHT HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON RELATIONS BETWEEN MY COUNTRY AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION. WE WILL NOT REPATRIATE THESE VIETNAMESE WHO FLED AFTER THE LIBERATION OF OUR COUNTRY. THANK YOU. END QUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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